

The World

Published by the Press Publishing Company, No. 53 to 55
Park Row, New York. Entered at the Post-Office
at New York as Second-Class Mail Matter.

VOLUME 44.....NO. 18,420.

THE CITY'S MORALS.

Magistrate Flammer's tribute to the improved morality of the metropolis makes agreeable reading. New York is not the modern Gomorrah many persons who persist in preconceived notions think it.

As the lesson of thirty years' experience in a municipal court the Magistrate finds that there are fewer criminal offenses of the brutalizing order—fewer felonious assaults, murders, hold-ups, less burglary. Where in his first year on the bench there were 81,821 cases before the police courts of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Richmond and the Bronx there were last year 105,481 cases. In that time, though the population of Manhattan and Richmond has doubled, that of Brooklyn nearly trebled and Queens increased nearly fourfold, the crime average has risen only one-third. It is an encouraging showing.

Now criminal talent tends more to a refined order of offenses. Forgeries have increased in ratio, and swindling, crime of a gentlemanly order. Is it because the criminal is better educated or because he has learned that the rewards of polite villainy are greater? At any rate, life and limb are securer.

What the Magistrate has to say about drunkenness among women is not so encouraging. It is a fact of general observation that men less often drink to excess than formerly. Their reform has been due to what may be called commercial morality. Employers no longer countenance lapses occasioned by drink. Many of the larger business houses have strict rules on this point which enforce a moderation if not an abstinence from liquor more effective in its workings than the entire propaganda of professional temperance exhortation.

But, while men are improving, women, according to the Magistrate, are degenerating. "To-day," he says, "the woman drunk is a familiar spectacle both in the rags of poverty and the finery of wealth. Our police courts are overrun with them. Year by year the number increases, and the average of well-dressed women among the offenders grows steadily."

Thirty years ago the woman drunkard was socially ostracized. It does not follow that because she has increased in numbers and is better dressed and is outwardly more refined she is now within the social pale. On the contrary, it may be said that the city has at present a far larger class of unrecognized women from whom the numbers of habitual drinkers are recruited.

But it is certain that society tolerates a liberality of indulgence in liquor by women which often verges to the excess which leads to drunkenness. It overlooks a fondness for drink which once would have compromised a woman. A deplorable laxity exists in this particular, the consequences of which cannot but be deteriorating to womanhood.

IN THE THIRD STAGE.

Many of the industrial corporations whose securities have suffered by the market depression are now entering upon the third period of stock-company progress.

First comes the era of extravagance in which top-notch prices are paid for subsidiary companies, valuations wholly out of proportion to their worth placed on obsolete plants, and prodigious bonuses paid to promoters. Everything goes, optimism rules, an "error" of \$500,000 in the company's accounts is overlooked as of minor consequence.

Then follows the "stagnant securities" period in which the stock reaches a low level of market quotations, "profits in sight" fall of materialization and public confidence is lost before the inner revelations.

Next the period of "economies of administration," retrenchment and "readjustment of salaries." Leaks are stopped and an expenditure of \$1,000 curtailed where at the beginning \$100,000 was authorized without hesitation.

The American Steel and Wire Company is now to undergo retrenchment. This is one of the large constituent companies of the Steel Trust. At the time of the merger it was a substantial corporation paying regular dividends of 7 per cent. a year. Its general offices are to be moved to Chicago for purposes of consolidation and 50 per cent. of the office employees either discharged or reduced in salary, whereby a yearly saving of \$800,000 will be effected. This is presumably part of the "general scheme of retrenchment in expenses being worked out by the United States Steel Corporation," which is to "include the salaries of officers small and large."

Doubtless this prudent economy is sound business tactics, but why are they not oftener exercised at the outset?

FEMINE HONESTY.

A day's news that reveals the head nurse of a woman's hospital in the role of safe robber and shows a college girl raising one-dollar bills to tens and passing them, cases following closely upon the recent embezzlement of \$37,000 by a woman occupying a position of trust in a local manufacturing company, may inspire some doubts as to the substantiality of feminine honesty.

Is the enlargement of woman's sphere loosening her firm hold on the principles of rectitude? Is the entrance of the sex into commercial occupations lowering her standards? Are business associations breaking down her moral safeguards?

The few cases in point that may be noted will not establish the contention of the doubters. Yet the occasional shortage in the accounts of girl cashiers and the rare instance of appropriation of an employer's funds by a woman employee excite an attention all the more general because of their infrequency. They receive a scrutiny undeserved in view of their relative low ratio to the great number of women now in commercial life.

One development of the business woman that may be considered in connection with her high average of trustworthiness is her ability to keep business secrets. It is the testimony of her employers that important matters confided to her are less apt to leak out than when the confidant is a man. Her reticence stands forth by contrast with masculine loquacity.

AN OUTWORN FASHION.

"J. C." writes to The Evening World to protest against the wearing of mourning bands on the sleeve as advertising an insincere sorrow.

The point seems well taken. Such bands were originally a military mark of mourning and served a desirable purpose. Their adoption by civilian societies was a step toward their general popular use by persons in whom—what was made subordinate to the exhibition of a sad countenance, was especially incongruous on the sunny days of a smiling prettiness.

Billy Bowwow Takes Polly Puggdoodle to a Light Luncheon. That Is Not So Light on Him.



How to Tell When You Have A Grand Passion.

By
Nixola Greeley-Smith.

ARE you in love? If you have asked yourself that question a great many times recently you need not be apprehensive of a dawning grand passion, no matter what the answer you gave to it. For the greatest love is of unconscious growth. What seems to a woman a charming friendship flowers in a day into the cruelest, most unreasoning of infatuations that may last a lifetime. But before that day comes she is not likely to analyze her feelings and as a result of that analysis ask herself if she is indeed in love.

There are, to be sure, women who do this, and by the process develop a struggling, self-made passion, which, like all other self-made things, is fond of talking about itself and telling everybody how it grew.

These women are, in a way, singularly unselfish. For in the great desire to discuss themselves, and in a lesser measure the happy victim of their charms, they divide their confidences, share his kisses in a way with every casual acquaintance willing to listen for half an hour.

But there are not the great loves of the world, which grow gradually, silently making of the line which divides friendship from love a skipping rope, of which they are now on one side, now the other.

For even in the dawn of a great love the lovers do not love each other all the time. And there is always less difference between the honeymoon period and the subsequent daily association of married persons who love each other than between those whose affection must be constantly proving itself, not to each other only but to themselves.

But the growth of a great love is as unconscious as it is gradual.

Yesterday you thought of no man in capitals. Among the number of your admirers no name wrote itself in italics. There were Tom and Dick and Harry—nice Tom, good old Dick, charming Harry—and there was a new paragraph in your life.

And then it happened.

What happened?

You fell in love.

Who is Tom? Was there ever such a person as Dick? But Harry! Friend, lover, god—why are there no words to express what he has become to you?

Still, really, notwithstanding the wonderful feeling, you don't think you are in love as ordinary stars count loving.

Ordinary girls love and want to have a big wedding and go and live in a flat.

You are very fond of Harry, of course. But you don't want to marry him—at least, not for a long time. The only thing that seems absolutely necessary at first is to have him always near, so you can discuss what he thought when he first met you and how he felt when you wouldn't go to the ball game with him, and he met you there afterward with Tom, and where he got that bruise on his left temple.

Oh—! Something ought to be done to those awful railroad companies. You will never ride on that road again as long as you live.

And perhaps you want to kiss the brute.

Perhaps you do it.

What does that prove anyway? Any child knows kissing is good for bruises.

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The Importance of Mr. Peewee, the Great Little Man.

He Assists Miss Sixfoot Through the Bridge Crush, and the Result for Him Is Crushing



HAPS AND MISHAPS IN ANIMALVILLE.



LETTERS, QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

Refers to the River "Rye," Not to Grain.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Does the song called "Coming Through the Rye" refer to a river named Rye or to the rye field?

H. G.

Another Solution.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I know another and simpler solution than that published in answer to the Ann's age problem, though the answer is the same. I give you my solution, which is that of a plain workman who has not seen an algebra in eighteen years. Let x=Ann's age that has elapsed since Mary was as old as Ann is now.

4x=Mary's age then, and 19-Mary's age now; 19-4x=Ann's age now.

Now Mary's age then was 4x, and Ann's age then was 19-4x.

Now Mary's age now is 19-4x, and Ann's age now is 19-4x.

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that has elapsed. 13-x=18, Ann's age now; 18-x=13, Mary's age then.

HUGH J. MULLALLY.

Rapid Transit Wit.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The following conversation was overheard by the writer the other day:

Lady on Thirty-fourth street car—Conductor, do you stop at the Waldorf?

Conductor—What! on a dollar and a half a day?

M. P. M.

One Pound Dumbbells Are Better.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In exercising with dumbbells of different weights, say three and two pounds, which should be used first, the heavier or the lighter one? Also, are twenty minutes exercise every night before retiring and about ten minutes every

morning before breakfast with dumbbells of the above weights alone sufficient to build up the muscles of the upper part of the body?

J. A. A.

There is no gain in using heavy dumbbells. You will get better results from one-pounders. The amount of exercise you mention should be sufficient, if you put your whole mind and energy to it.

Straight Flush Beats Four Aces.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Do four aces beat a straight flush?

A. R. H.

More "Great-Grandmothers."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I read a letter about a child who had three great-grandmothers. My son has three great-grandmothers living, and until I read that letter I was quite unaware that such a case was out of the ordinary.

M. P. M.

The average age of my son's great-grandmothers is seventy years. It would be interesting to hear further testimony on the subject from your readers.

G. H. R.

As to High-Heeled Shoes.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The present style of shoe with the high heel does not in the least conduce either to health or happiness. Surely no woman who will persist in wearing high-heeled shoes can hope to remain in good health for any great length of time. It is purely nominal for any sane woman to wear such absurd shoes. When the body is thrown forward it must naturally have some evil effect upon the spine. Thus while a broad, low and comfortable heel on a shoe will materially assist in producing health and vigor, the high-heeled shoe has just the opposite effect.

Shibboleth.

The fact that day birds become nocturnal at migration time, uttering notes used on no other occasion in the year; that they fly at a speed beyond their ordinary powers and at heights beyond their ordinary haunts, leads Dr. Catka to believe that they possess in their powers of flight and soaring "some scientific, not employed on any other occasion and, therefore, not taken into account by naturalists."

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The Man Higher Up

Another Clerk Goes Wrong in Wall Street.



"He didn't lose it in speculation," corrected the Man Higher Up. "He lost it against a sure-thing game. He was on the inside, too. He knew that a sucker butting into Wall street has got about as much show as a man with a shotgun on the White House grounds, but he bought a stack and sat in. It is like a professional short-card man out of a job. He goes and plays bank."

"Whenever a Wall street clerk is caught annexing the boss's 'cush' there is a whole lot of stir about it. That more of them are not caught with the goods is either a boost for the honesty of the Wall street clerks or else a tribute to the wisdom of their bosses in not letting the clerks get a chance to handle the mazzuma. It is probably a stand-off. Brokers don't trust anybody unless they have to."

"Study the layout and you will come to the conclusion that a Wall street clerk who steals is pretty close to acting a natural part. Not that he was born dishonest, or that his education was shy in planting the seeds of squareness in his mind, but because the force of example is about the burliest master of conduct that ever took a fall out of a man."

"The clerk gets a salary about sufficient to enable him to make a front, and it dredges a small bank roll down to the fungus growth to make a front in this town. By the time the Wall street clerk has paid his house rent and food obligations and made good for keeping himself and his family decorated with clothes he is about ready to do the stunt of writing his name on his last dollar bill and spending it foolishly."

"All day long he works in an atmosphere of money. He hears talk of millions and sees the coin and the long green floating by him like you have seen the water flowing over the brink of Niagara Falls. The boss comes to work in an automobile, wears a gig lamp in his necktie that would light a public hall, and when the clerk goes to the theatre and sits in the balcony he sees the old man reposing in a box and giving high signs to the queenliest dame in the sextet."

"It is characteristic of men who work for salaries to con themselves into the belief that they know more than the boss, and this don't apply exclusively to Wall street. The clerk who gets ambitious says to himself:

"Why, this dub that makes his living by the sweat of my brow would be driving a street car if his father hadn't left him the privilege of signing checks on a bank. If I had the pax he can put his lunch hooks on I'd make John D. Rockefeller look like a small boy selling old iron to get the price of a circus ticket. For me a little glue on the fingers when the stuff passes in review."

"The first thing he knows he's up to his neck and doing deep breathing. Then the old man gets wise and it's the clerk to the booby-hatch, while the guys who start industrial combinations on a foundation of soap give the public the laugh."

"I caught my clerk buying a ticket in an Irish lottery the other day," said the Cigar Store Man.

"Don't you worry about him," advised the Man Higher Up. "That was a voluntary donation."

Pointed Paragraphs.

Marriages may be made in heaven, but a lot of them end in the other place.

When a dude turns a woman's head it is usually in the other direction.

Too many people only know by hearsay that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Count 100 before speaking if you are angry, and if the other fellow is the bigger count 10,000.

A man thinks he is practicing economy when he denies himself something he can't raise the money to buy.

Before marriage a man is willing to admit that he is unworthy of his wife, but after marriage he acts as though he had sacrificed himself.—Chicago News.

"Shibboleth."

"Shibboleth" is a word frequently used in modern politics, though it may be doubted whether many politicians know the history of it. Curiously enough, this Hebrew word really means "an ear of corn" as well as a "river," but its significance for moderns arises from the fact that it was employed as a test to distinguish the Ephraimites from the Gileadites, the former being unable to pronounce the "sh" sound.

Odd Bird Habits.

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